

844 The child is then wiped off with a clean cloth and oiled but not bathed. Clothing prepared in advance is put on the child. It is said that the midwife tells parents in advance whether to prepare clothing for a boy or a girl and that they seldom make a mistake. But as no difference could be found in the clothing and, indeed, the child is usually wrapped just in some clean rags, the statement has little significance. Sometimes the child is given tea of Castile roses or a bit of edible oil, but most midwives thought nothing should be given the first day.

853 The child is nursed the second day. Rarely does the mother not have milk. Should this happen, the aid of some nursing mother is sought or the child is given cow or goat milk. The latter is not diluted, but it is boiled before using, often being flavored with a bit of yerba buena or cinnamon. Special drinks are given the mother to induce milk flow if it is inadequate. Brews of flaxseed (?) were mentioned.

844 The afterbirth is buried, sometimes beside the fireplace, sometimes under it. If this is not done, it is believed the mother would become "cold," but one midwife stated the cord is preserved and used for remedies. The cord of Agustín Rangel's father was taken to the shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe at Tepeyac and left.

846 Midwives continue to visit the house to attend to the mother and child. The bandage over the umbilicus is removed every 2 or 3 days. The cord drops off between the second and eighth days (the longer period apparently being unusual). The umbilicus is then anointed with iodine or powder made from tules. Sometimes small hernias are cured with a small ball of sosa (an herb) or a green tomato. Hernias result from carelessness or "coldness." Infections of the umbilicus result from carelessness in bathing the child. One midwife reported curing them with face powder!

The child is normally bathed by the midwife on the third, sixth, and ninth days (according to one midwife, immediately after birth also "if that is the custom of the house"). Warm water is used for the bath.

827 Some idea that children resemble parents seems to be prevalent and to be attributed to hereditary mechanisms (although in this informants may have been sophisticated). An instance cited was that of a man with a very

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827 linear body build which was repeated in the
 143 children, "who looked as though a wind would
 blow them away," yet otherwise seemed healthy.
 As an exception, there was cited the case of two
 girls with red hair and blue eyes in one family.
 The children were not seen and might have been
 albinos, but the large number of persons who
 have visited the United States suggests other
 explanations. Another case was cited in which
 [142] the parents had black hair and the fairly dark
 skin common among Tarascans. Three sons
 all had dark-red or auburn hair, and the skin,
 although equally dark, showed also darker spots
 resembling freckles. In later years the freckles
 spread until the skin became a solid color,
 darker than that of either parent.

732 Occasional examples occur of children appar-
 ently deficient in mentality. Some continue to
 show childish reactions and behaviors, laugh
 a great deal without occasion, do not care for
 their clothing, eat badly, and do not seem to
 understand well even when approaching adult
 years. Nevertheless, no adults were encoun-
 tered who seemed to exhibit insanity or feeble-
 mindedness.

854 Few special attentions to infants are recorded.
 There is no use of ashes or leaving of corn ears
 or fire pokers with infants when they are left
 alone, but a broom of straw may be left at the
 head of the child's bed for protection against
 evil if the mother wishes to leave it for a few
 minutes. Children are nursed freely whenever
 they desire the breast. Although some evi-
 dence of shyness was evident, for example, some

853 mothers draped their *rebozo* over the breast,
 [834] nursing takes place in a variety of public cir-
 cumstances, on the streets or on the roads, and
 even while riding on a burro. Through the
 first year or so the child sleeps with the nipple
 of the mother's breast in its mouth at night.
 Perhaps as a result of this there is a virtually
 complete absence of thumb sucking at all ages.

854 Infants are ordinarily carried by their
 mothers, almost invariably wrapped in the
rebozo. Even if the child is carried in the arm,
 the *rebozo* is slung around the child and over
 the shoulders to take part of the weight.
 Ordinarily a small child is slung more or less
 horizontally in the *rebozo* on the mother's back.
 One end of the *rebozo* goes under the left arm,
 the other over the right shoulder, the two ends